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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the year 1954.

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Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.

I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H.,

Sanitary Inspector.

A.A. MAXWELL, M.S.I.A., M.Inst. Ex.I
M.I.P.C., Dip.(Eng).
R.T.C.(Glas).,

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for 1954 which has been prepared jointly by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

The health of the community remained good and, apart from the cases of Scarlet Fever, there were no major outbreaks of notifiable disease in spite of the cold and wet summer and autumn. The thirty cases of Scarlet Fever occurred mainly in the spring quarter, but isolated instances of the disease were reported in each of the four quarters. As this fever is of occasional occurrence everywhere in Britain, and as it is closely connected with the common sore throat and with other not uncommon ailments such as otorrhoea and impitigo, there is no possibility of its being stamped out completely. Modern drugs can assist in bringing a localised outbreak under control, but the elimination of sporadic cases and of associated secondary ones is not feasible in view of the widespread distribution of the germ and its association with other non-notifiable illnesses among adults as well as children. As the majority of the cases that occurred in 1954 were in the 5 to 9 years age group, investigation was carried out at the Infants School, children were examined, those with unhealthy throats etc. were excluded temporarily and test swabs were submitted to the laboratory. A gradual decline in the numbers of cases arising was observed.

The principal event of 1954 was the coming into force of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act which requires the Council to prepare a programme for the replacement of property in the district that is unfit for human habitation and that cannot be made fit at reasonable expense. Provisional figures for our first five years plan for erecting houses to provide accommodation for people whose unfit houses we undertake to demolish within that period, must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government before 31st August, 1955. With a view to the provision of the required data, a rapid survey of housing conditions is to be undertaken by your officers.

It was with pleasure that we learned of the Government's decision to terminate meat rationing in July 1954. This decision involved the abandonment of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food and the re-introduction of the licensing of existing private slaughter-houses. In view of the Government's declared policy of restoring centralised slaughtering some time in the future and to authorise the provision of major abattoir facilities in comparatively few centres throughout the country, cognisance had to be taken of this by the Council when re-licensing existing private slaughter-houses, because costly improvements at them might lead to claims for compensation against the Council from the owners when the official policy of moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities was effected.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I have pleasure in acknowledging once again our indebtedness to the Chairman and Members for the encouragement that has been given to us throughout the year

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No. Leominster 2595.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|--------|
| Area (in acres) | 213 |
| Population | 1,670 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to the Rate Books) | 530 |
| Rateable Value | £9,959 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £40 |

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

| | | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| LIVE BIRTHS | (Legitimate) .. | 21 | 7 | 14 |
| | (Illegitimate) .. | - | - | - |
| | Total .. | 21 | 7 | 14 |
| STILL BIRTHS | | Nil | | |
| DEATHS | | 18 | 10 | 8 |
| DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES .. | | Nil | | |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate) .. | | 1 | 1 | - |

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1954.

| | |
|--|------|
| Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) .. | 12.6 |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales | 15.2 |
| Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births) .. | Nil |
| Still Birth Rate for England and Wales | 24.0 |
| Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) .. | 10.8 |
| Death Rate for England and Wales | 11.3 |
| Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) .. | 47.6 |
| Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales | 25.5 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply from the Buckenhill Springs continues to provide an adequate flow for the town, but during the year arrangements were made to incorporate additional springs in order to increase the dry-weather yield substantially.

Plans are in course of preparation for the construction of two new storage tanks. One will be situated at the Three Mills and the other at Flaggoners Green.

An automatic pumping plant is now installed and is proving of great value.

Samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The end of the year saw the completion of the first purification plant in the Urban area. This plant is serving the old Ballhurst Estate and the new Bannut Tree Estate.

No progress has been made with regard to the Fourberries where the effluent still runs untreated into the river. The River Board are viewing the matter with concern and have approached the Council regarding the provision of a sewage disposal works.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The camping site used by the travelling fairs has caused no nuisance in the past year, but the need for a proper caravan site cannot be over-stressed in view of the number of caravans passing through Bromyard at present. No proper facilities have yet been provided. Even from an economic point of view the Council should have a caravan site under their control as this is sure to attract visitors to the town and surrounding district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Little can be added to what has been stated in previous years, except that the residents of the district do not realise that they could reduce their costs if more refuse was burned instead of being left for collection by the Council.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

During the year the Council re-licenced one slaughter-house which had been improved to the requirements of this Department. One other small slaughter-house was renovated for use by the owner. In both cases the premises are kept in a clean condition.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The efforts of the Operator produced the following results:-

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Approximate kill :- | at Refuse Tip | .. | .. | 140 |
| | in Sewers | .. | .. | 175 |
| | Business premises | | | |
| | and private houses | .. | | 80 |

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities. | 9 | 30 | - | - |

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 2 | 2 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 5 | 4 | - | 1 | - |

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Informal and Verbal Notices | .. | .. | .. | 70 |
| Ditto complied with | .. | .. | .. | 64 |
| Letters sent out | .. | .. | .. | 90 |
| Complaints received | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Ditto confirmed | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| Nuisances found | .. | .. | .. | 7 |

GENERAL SUMMARY

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Total number of Inspections | .. | .. | .. | 394 |
| Total number of Re-inspection made | . | .. | .. | 214 |

DRAINAGE

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| New Drainage | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| Repairs to existing drainage | . | .. | .. | 27 |
| Smoke, water etc. tests | .. | .. | .. | 35 |

DWELLING HOUSES

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Ordinary | .. | .. | .. | 68 |
| Infectious Disease and contacts | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| Overcrowding | .. | .. | .. | 4 |

REFUSE DISPOSAL

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| New Bins | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Accumulations of Refuse | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Tips | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 52 |
| Rodent Control Surveys | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |

WATER SUPPLY

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Inspection of Springs | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Gauging | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| Testing Flow | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| Examinations of Reservoirs | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 52 |

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

| | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Fairs etc. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|

FOOD PREMISES

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Dairies, Cafes and Butcher's Shops | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50 |
| Bakehouses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year.

The inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts resulted in certain properties being scheduled and in due course they will be dealt with in the statutory manner.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

| | | | |
|----|-----|---|----|
| 1. | (a) | Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) | 72 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 93 |
| 2. | | Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation | 28 |

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:

| | | | |
|----|-----|--|-----|
| 1. | | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs | 40 |
| 2. | | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of notices :- | |
| | (a) | By Owners | 32 |
| | (b) | By Local Authority | Nil |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

BAKEHOUSES

The five bakehouses in the area are regularly inspected and the standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

All ice cream sold in the area is pre-packed and no complaints have been received.

FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES

Difficulties in the past with the trade have now been overcome and manufacturers have co-operated excellently to ensure that the food is produced in a hygienic manner.

PUBLIC HOUSES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The improvements reported last year have continued, but in one case the cooking facilities of one establishment still gives cause for concern. Interviews with the management brings hope that during the coming year the desired improvements will be carried out without resorting to formal action.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT

STATEMENT OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| 90 Bullocks | 33 Heifers | 960 Sheep & Lambs |
| 93 Calves | 179 Pigs | |

In addition 1,750 Hams were examined.

Meat found to be Unfit for Human Consumption and Destroyed:-

| | | | | |
|-------|------|-------------------|----|---|
| 126 | lbs. | .. | .. | Tuberculosis |
| 60 | " | .. | .. | Oedema |
| 360 | " | .. | .. | Septic Matritis |
| 254 | " | (Frozen Imported) | | Decomposed |
| 6 | " | .. | .. | Distomatosis |
| 4 | " | .. | .. | Melanosis |
| 14 | " | .. | .. | Tumours |
| 14 | " | .. | .. | Excessive Bruising |
| 172 | " | .. | .. | Gutoedema |
| 4,862 | " | Ham & Bacon | | Due to Chemical Impurities during curing. |

Total Weight .. 2 Tons, 12 Cwts, 3 Stones, 6 lbs.

In addition, 300 tins of various foodstuffs were destroyed. The main cause was blown tins.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

| Disease | Age of Patient | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | 0-1 | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-24 | 25 & Over | Unknown | |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | 4 | 20 | 4 | - | 2 | - | 30 |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Dysentery | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1954 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of five males and six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year one case was transferred to the Register from another district.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26
Vaccination and Immunisation.

Numbers of children in the district who were treated during the year :-

| Purpose of Injection | Age at date of immunisation or vaccination. | | | | | | | | | Reinforcing Injections |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------|--------|--------|--------|----------|------------|-----------|-------|------------------------|
| | Under 1 yr. | 1 yr. | 2 yrs. | 3 yrs. | 4 yrs. | 5-9 yrs. | 10-14 yrs. | 15 & Over | Total | |
| Immunisation against Diphtheria | 15 | 10 | - | 2 | - | 6 | - | - | 33 | 37 |
| Immunisation against Whooping Cough | 14 | 10 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 27 | - |
| Vaccination against Smallpox | 21 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 21 | - |

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

| Disease | | | | | Males | Females | TOTAL |
|---------|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, Respiratory | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | .. | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | | | | - | - | - |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | .. | ... | ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | .. | | | - | - | - |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 14. | Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | .. | | | - | 2 | 2 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | | | - | - | - |
| 20. | Other heart disease | .. | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | | | | - | - | - |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | | | - | 1 | 1 |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | .. | | | - | - | - |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | | | - | - | - |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | | | | 1 | - | 1 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | - | - | - |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | | | - | - | - |

All causes

18

